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FISHERY STATISTICS OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC

VOLUME VI

Territory of American Samoa (1989)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (1989)

Territory of Guam (1989)

State of Hawaii (1989)

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PREFACE

In recent years, the demand for data and information concerning marine fisheries has greatly increased. To help meet these increased needs in the central and western Pacific areas, the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Center initiated the Western Pacific Fishery Information Network (WPACFIN), which assists Pacific island fisheries agencies in upgrading their data collecting, processing, and reporting capabilities. Several agencies are participating in this program: the National Marine Fisheries Service's Southwest Fisheries Center and its Honolulu Laboratory, and the Southwest Region and its Western Pacific Program Office, American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Division of Fish and Wildlife, Guam's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources, Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources, and the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council.

In 1982, these agencies formed a Fisheries Data Coordinating Committee (FDCC) and a FDCC Technical Subcommittee to help guide, coordinate, and monitor all of the many activities being undertaken by each agency to improve their systems. Significant progress has been made by all participating agencies, particularly in the areas of upgrading data collecting and processing systems.

As a major step in improving and coordinating the data reporting and distributing systems of the agencies, in May 1985, the FDCC agreed to begin producing a combined document reporting each island's major fisheries statistics. Production of the document would be the responsibility of the FDCC Technical Subcommittee and would be coordinated by the WPACFIN program manager. Each agency would supply required summaries, graphs, and text for its respective chapter of the report; WPACFIN would combine the chapters and distribute the document as part of the Administrative Report Series of the Southwest Fisheries Center.

This document is the sixth volume in the series "Fishery Statistics of the Western Pacific" and contains summaries of commercial and creel survey fishery landings data for 1989 for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and Hawaii. The first five volumes of this series contained similar reports for these areas for 1979 through 1988.

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BACKGROUND

This report has been compiled by governmental fisheries agencies of several islands in the central and western Pacific area in a cooperative and continuing effort to improve the availability and dissemination of fisheries information. The data contained herein have been collected, computerized, edited, and processed by agencies participating in the Western Pacific Fishery Information Network (WPACFIN), including American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR), the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' (CNMI) Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), Guam's Division of Aquatic and Wildlife Resources (DAWR), Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (HDAR) and the Southwest Fisheries Center's (SWFC) Honolulu Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The data summaries and graphs contained in this document were prepared by WPACFIN staff at the Honolulu Laboratory from data collected by WPACFIN or provided by these agencies. Data from DMWR, DFW, and DAWR were supplied on floppy diskettes in established WPACFIN data base formats, whereas data on the Guam commercial fisheries were collected on forms provided to fish wholesalers by WPACFIN. Data for Hawaii were provided by HDAR on computer tape. Once data from all of these agencies were put into the proper format on the central WPACFIN computer and appropriate edit and verification procedures completed, summary reports and files were produced using software developed specifically for this purpose. Graphs were produced using commercially available software and a lazerjet printer.

PROGRESS

In 1981, when WPACFIN began assisting agencies in improving their data collecting and processing systems, only the State of Hawaii had computerized processing. By mid-1982, fisheries offices in American Samoa, Guam, and the CNMI had implemented computerized processing on microcomputers supplied by WPACFIN. Since that time, these agencies have made many significant improvements to their data collecting systems and have established sound automated data processing systems. Most agencies can now provide fishery statistics to WPACFIN within 45 days of the date of collection. The HDAR has also improved its systems in recent years and has significantly reduced the lag time in data processing from about 2.5 years to less than 1 year. It has also improved the procedures used for editing, updating, and processing Hawaii's data. Implementation of additional planned improvements could reduce the lag time to about 6 months.

PRECAUTIONS

Data collecting and processing systems vary greatly among Pacific island fisheries agencies. Although much standardization has taken place and is continuing, there remain many unique aspects of each island's systems based on local needs and capabilities. When using summaries contained in this report, especially if making comparisons, one should keep in mind the nature of the systems used to produce the data. For instance, Hawaii's data are based on mandatory monthly reporting by licensed commercial fishermen, CNMI's data are based on voluntary monthly reporting of fish buyers using government- provided invoices, Guam's data are from WPACFIN-sponsored voluntary reporting by major commercial dealers and DAWR- operated creel survey sampling and data expansion programs, and American Samoa's data are based on an integration of almost daily interviews of fishermen and a creel survey and data expansion program similar to Guam's. Each system has advantages and disadvantages, and the user should be aware of them when comparing or interpreting data.

The user should also be aware that species assemblages vary among island groups, as do cultural preferences and principal fishing techniques. Population size is of particular importance when making interpretations of the relative value and importance of the fisheries. To help the user make these value judgments, more detailed explanations of the data collecting and processing systems are provided in each island's section of this report.

CONTENTS

This document is divided into sections by island group. Each section contains reports on the monthly and annual landings by species or species groups for the commercial fleet. The sections for American Samoa and Guam also contain estimates of total catch and effort of all fisheries including recreational and subsistence fishing activities. These estimates and their associated confidence limits were generated by computer-based data expansion systems using sample fishery data collected by creel survey programs. Commercial landings for American Samoa were calculated based on information gathered during the offshore creel survey sampling program. Two sets of annual summaries are included for Hawaii, one each for commercial landings that were sold and not sold.

Definitions

In addition to the description of the systems and the monthly and annual reports, each section contains graphs of some of the summary fishery statistics of particular interest or importance to participating WPACFIN agencies. For purposes of graphical presentation of the data, several categories have been defined for each island's fisheries. Because of differences in

reporting systems and capabilities among the islands, species contained within each category may vary, but all categories are documented in each island's section. Overlap exists among some of the categories used for different graphs. Categories used in the graphs include the following:

1. Fisheries Categories - These are combinations of species of similar ecological types, specifically, pelagic, bottom fish, reef fish, and "other." "Other" includes groups that generally traverse these categories, such as sharks and certain jacks, or are not typically included in these groups, such as mullet and milkfish.

2. Pelagic Management Unit Species (PMUS) - Defined in the Fishery Management Plan for pelagic species to include the billfishes, wahoo, mahimahi, and sharks.

3. Bottom Fish Management Unit Species (BMUS) - Defined as the species of initial importance in the Fishery Management Plan for bottom fish and seamount fisheries, including the major deepwater snapper, grouper, emperor, and certain jacks.

4. Tunas - Predominantly skipjack and yellowfin tunas in all areas, but also including most other tuna species and excluding wahoo.

5. Other Tunas - All tunas as defined above, but excluding skipjack and yellowfin tunas.

6. Billfish - Combination of all marlin, sailfish, spearfish, and swordfish species.

7. Other Methods - In the American Samoa and Guam sections, fishing methods other than trolling and bottom fishing are combined into this single "other" category for certain graphs.

Graphics

A minimum of four types of graphs are provided with each island's data. The chapters for American Samoa and Guam have an additional type of graphics on catch and effort from their creel survey data. Type I graphs present summary charts of the major species and species groups for 1989. Type II graphs are seasonality plots for the major species or species groups, showing the average weight landed during each month for all years combined. Type III graphs are based on annual summary statistics and help visualize the variability among years. Type IV graphs are plots of monthly landings of some of the major commercially important species and document fluctuations in landings of these species over the entire time series. Type V graphs are based on creel survey data and include plots of catch and effort by

fishing method plus a combination of several of the types I-IV graphs.

I. Monthly graphs for each year's data including:

- A. Major fisheries categories
- B. Tunas, PMUS, and BMUS
- C. Wahoo, mahimahi, and billfish
- D. Skipjack, yellowfin, and other tunas

II. Plots of average monthly landings for:

- A. Tunas, PMUS, and BMUS
- B. Wahoo and mahimahi
- C. Billfish species:
  1. Marlin and sailfish - American Samoa and CNMI
  2. Blue marlin, black marlin, and striped marlin - Hawaii
  3. Sailfish, shortbill spearfish, and swordfish - Hawaii
- D. Skipjack, yellowfin, and other tunas
- E. BMUS and the most important bottom fish species
  1. BMUS, ehu, and onaga - American Samoa
  2. BMUS, emperor, and grouper - CNMI and Guam
  3. BMUS, onaga, and opakapaka - Hawaii
  4. BMUS, ehu, and uku - Hawaii

III. Graphs of annual summary statistics for:

- A. Major fisheries categories
- B. Total commercial landings - pounds and dollars
- C. Tunas, PMUS, and BMUS
- D. Wahoo, mahimahi, and billfish
- E. Skipjack, yellowfin, and other tunas

IV. Graphs of monthly landings over the entire time series for the following major species:

- A. Wahoo - All four areas
- B. Mahimahi - All four areas
- C. Blue marlin - All four areas
- D. Black marlin - Hawaii
- E. Striped marlin - Hawaii
- F. Sailfish - American Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii
- G. Shortbill spearfish - Guam and Hawaii
- H. Swordfish - Hawaii
- I. Skipjack tuna - All four areas
- J. Yellowfin tuna - All four areas
- K. Opakapaka - Hawaii
- L. Onaga - American Samoa and Hawaii
- M. Uku - Hawaii
- N. Ehu - American Samoa and Hawaii
- O. Emperors - CNMI and Guam
- P. Grouper - CNMI and Guam

V. Graphs of certain statistics generated by creel surveys for American Samoa and Guam

A. Offshore monthly catch by method
B. Offshore monthly effort by method
C. Offshore annual catch by method
D. Offshore annual effort by method
E. Inshore Total Catch and Effort
F. Offshore and Inshore Total Catch